

ENGLAND's Improvement

1717 1736

In many rare SECRETS:

Very Profitable and Advantageous to all People; being a New Book of Knowledge gathered out of the Writings of these famous Physicians, Chyrurgeons, and Astrologers, viz. Dr. Forsterman, Dr. Lilly, Dr. Ponnier, Dr. Winter, Dr. Saunder, Albertus Magnus, and others, being the best Collection of Receipts yet published.

How to make German-balls, and all sorts of Ink, and London Powder-Ink; the Mystery of Graving; Art of Burnishing Gold and Silver; Melting and Refining Metals; Tempering and Setting Edge tools and Instruments; to whiten Bone and Ivory; to Colour Metals of divers kinds; the Art of dying Cloath, Silks, Stuffs, Leather, Skins, Bristles, Feathers &c. To make Sealing wax of all Sorts and Colours; to Write like Gold and Silver; to make Green-water, and take Blots out of Paper and Parchment; to Write Legibly; to make Powder to cure the Head-ach and Tooth-ach; to preserve Linnen and Woolen from Moths, Worms, &c. to Perfume Gloves, make Beautifying-water, Wash-balls and Pomatums; to cure Corns and Chubbains; to Whiten and Thicken Cloath; to remove ill Scents; to rid Houses of Vermin; the Art of making Flea-traps, and Bug-traps; to make Letters and Figures on Knives, Tobacco-boxes, &c.

The Length, Breadth, Circumference, and Parishes in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and other Islands adjacent.

To which is added,

The Sick Man's JEWEL; wherein every one may know the Symptoms of their Distempers, with approved Receipts for the Cure of Green-sickness, Stone, and many other Diseases.

Published for the good of the Poor.

Printed for T. Norris, at the Looking-glass on London-bridge

1700?

England's Choice Improvements.

To make German-Balls.

Take of Bees-wax a pound, refined Turpentine two ounces, clarified Rosin two ounces, Olive-oil a quarrer of a pint, Lam: black two ounces, Black-earth two ounces; mix these together over a gentle fire, keeping them continually stirring till well melted and incorporated; then being almost cold, make into Balls for your use.

To make common Black-Ink.

You need in this, no more than bruise your Nut-galls, steep them in Small-beer, mix green Coperas and Gum-arabick to dissolve in it, keeping it often stirring, and in three or four days you will find it fit for your use.

To make Red-Ink.

Take rasped Log wood four ounces, Vermilian half an ounce, Gum tragina half an ounce, steep and well mix these in a pint of Water, let it steep twenty four hours, then strain it out for use.

To make White-Ink, to Write on Black or Blue paper.

Take four ounces of Chalk, burn it well till it begins to crumble; then take the shells of four Eggs, beat them, or grind them together into Powder; then put them into about half a pint of Gum-water, and when you write, keep stirring to a thinness, that your Pen be not clogged with the Sediment.



(3)
To make the famous London Powder-Ink.

Take a pound of Galls, dry them well in an Oven, or Stove, do the like by two ounces of white Coperas, beat them into a fine Powder, and sift it through a Lawn-seive; do the like by an ounce of Gumaudrick, and mix it with the other, and when you have occasion for good Ink, mix a little of this Powder with Water, shake it, and stir it about well, and it will, in a little time, become extraordinary black Ink.

Carving, what the Art is.

In Carving you must have your Carver, Planisher, Point, and other things, then having a fair Plate of Metal even, and a Draught of any Picture, Writing, or Figure drawn, you must lightly smear over your Plate with Bees-wax over a gentle fire, then clap on your Picture, the fore-side to the Plate; then work it with your fingers a little wet, till the Paper becomes thin, that you may discern plainly the Stroks, then cut out with your Carver all the black Stroaks, and so you perfect the Work.

To burnish Gold or Silver.

Take Roach-allom and Cuttlebone, calcine them well, bruise them into Powder, do the like by a third part of the quantity of Chalk, then with fine Woollen rub over your Gold or Silver with the Powder, then use a Polisher, and it will make it shine and glister exceedingly.

To melt and refine Mettals.

Take a Crucible, and lay a Course of the filings of the Metal, upon a Course of Brimstone.

(4)
or Saltpeter-Sawdust, each a like quantity, and
so laying of Matel between every laying of the
Powder, &c. then put some fire in the Cra-
cible, so that the Metal being melted, the Sul-
phur and Sa't-peter evaporating will carry a-
way the dross, and refine it.

To temper, set, or sharpen Edge tools, & Instruments.

If you would have the Edge of any Tool very
hard, let it be thorough red hot, and on a sudden
taking it out of the fire, plunge it into cold wa-
ter; but if you have any Tool or Instrument
that is too hard or brittle, clap the Edge or
Point on the fire till it begins to look yellowish,
then take tallow and Soap mixed well tog- ther,
and rub it on the Edge; and in twice so doing
it will be softned to your Wish. To sharpen
Tools, grind them to a good Edge, then rub
that Edge or Point smooth on a Whetstone,
Hone, or piece of hard Wood.

To Cement Glas.

Take flacked Lime, the white of an Egg, and
the Powder of burnt Egg-shells, make them
moist with a little Vinegar, and rub the Brims
of the broken piece, and placing them exactly e-
ven, the defect will scarcely be discerned. China
Ware may be so cemented, or any earthen Ware
whatever, if you put a little Gum-sandrick to the
former Ingredients.

To whiten Bone or Ivory.

Cover them in new flacked Lime, pretty
warm, but not too hot.

To

If it be Silveake five penny weight of Brass,
and four penny weight of Silver, and incorpo-
rate them together. But for a soft Solder that
you would have melt quickly for any Metal, take
five penny weight of Brass, and three penny
weight of Copper, and to make it joyn more
strong, lay powder of Borax on the place where
you run, and this will serve for any Metal.

To dye stockings, Stuffs, Silks, or Cloath a Blue.

Boil Wheat bran and Allom in Water; then
put four pound of Wood to twenty Gallons, boil
it to a good height, and the aforesaid things
being white will take a curious Blue.

To Dye Red.

Take off the Water aforesaid six Gallons, a
pound of Beel rasped, and four ounces of Ver-
million, boil them up to a good Colour, and
dip in your Wites.

To Dye Yellow.

Take Madder four pound, Gambolia six oun-
ces, boil them in Bran and Allom-water.

To Dye Green.

You must first have it dyed Yellow, then take
twenty pound of Water, wherein Wheat, Bran,
and three pound of Allom has been soaked
twenty four Hours, strain, and then boil the
stuff and Cloath in it, after a pound or two of
Wood has been boiled in it.

To Dye a Purple.

First dye it blue, as has been taught, then put
into a red, and boil it well in Bran and Allom-
water, and it will be a curious Purple. For

For all sad Co.

There must be mixtures as the Fancy, or Fashions of the Times, so that it is difficult to set them down; no Dyer can tell what Colours he shall use, till he sees his Pattern, or has his Directions.

To Dye Leather Blue.

Boil Elder-berries, Logwood, and Allom in water, rub the Skin over hard with it when very warm. The Red is done with Vermilion and Logwood, Yellow with Turmeric and Gambogia. Feathers are dyed in the same manner, as to the Red, Yellow, Blue, &c. The Orange with Turmeric, and a little Brail, the Black with Galls, &c.

To Dye Hair or Bristles.

Boil them in Allom-water, with Lil, for a red; with Verdigrease for a green; with Turmeric for a yellow.

To make red Wax for sealing writings.

Take Bees-wax four ounces, fir yellow Rosin a pound, Turpentine four ounces, Vermilion, or red Lead an ounce and a half, mix this well over a gentle fire; and when almost cool, make them up into the form of Sticks, having a Mold to shew them to the purpose. Black Wax is made the same way; only for Vermilion or red Lead, put Lay-black and Black earth. Hard green Wax is so made, only colour it with Verdigrease. All soft Waxes are made of Bees-wax, Turpentine, and Oil melted together till they come to a suitable Body, and may be coloured as before.

To write that it may appear like Gold or Silver.

For the first, take Ground Vermilion, and Gum armoniack, and the White of Eggs, write with it, and polish it, and it will look like Letters of Gold. For the second, take an ounce of Black-tin, and two ounces of Quick-silver, mix them together, and grind them with Gum-water, and the White of Eggs, till they run like Water, write with it then, and polish as before, and it will look like Silver.

To make Gum-water.

Take Gum-araback two ounces, a quarter of a pint of Spring-water, and half an ounce of Copperas, with a quarter of an ounce of Allom, dissolve them in the Water over a gentle Fire.

To take Blots out of Paper or Parchment.

Dissolve an ounce of Allom, and half a pint of Water, lay on the Blot, and rub it gently with the tip of your clean Finger and it will take it off. A Drop of Aquafortis will do the like.

To write invisible till held to the fire.

Take an old Onion and a Lemmon, bruse them together, and squeeze out the Juice, and when you write, nothing will appear, but hold it to the Fire, or in the hot Sun, and the Letters will be plain. Or write with ground Chalk and Egg-shells mixed with Gum-water, and nothing, if the Paper be very white, will appear, unless it be put into Water, and then all the Letters will be plain.

To secure Woollen, Linnen, Silks, from Moths.

Take the Leaves of Benjamine, Southernwood, and Juniper dried, and make into Powder, and being sprinkled among them, it will secure them from all Damage.

To Perfume Gloves.

Take Orange-flowers and Gessanine-water, each half an ounce, Musk two grains, mix well together, anoint the Gloves, and it is done.

A Beautifying-water for the Hand and Face.

Distil Fumitory and Scabeous, infuse into it Camomil-flowers, and the fine sifted Powder of dry'd Garden-beans, shake them often together, and put in a little quantity of Antimony, and it will prove an excellent beautifying Water as any the World affords.

To make Wash-balls.

Take Castile-soap, or Cake-soap, beat it, and make it as it were into Powder with Water; dust into it fine Bran, and a little Powder of Benjamine; and so make them up into Balls with your Hands, or in a Mold. To

To make Pomatums.

Take Allom Meal a pound, of Sheeps suit try'd and clarified half a pound, of Ambregrease, two drams of Oil, Cinamon, Myrrh, and Cloves, each a Dram, make them up with Benjamine-water, and so apply it.

To take away Corns.

Lay a Plaister of Oxicrocium to draw the Coar to a head, for the space of twelve hours; then taking off the Plaister, cut the Corn as deep as may be without making it bleed; then take burnt Allom powder'd, Powder of Birthwort-roots, and the Juice of Housleek, mix them together, and by applying it, the Corn in a little time will be removed; this for a hard Corn: for a soft, take black soap an ounce, a black Snail or two, and bruise them so that they may be laid Plaisterwise upon it, and it will do the Business.

To Cure Chilblains.

Take Hem'ock roots Elder-bark, and Bay-salt, and bruise them, lay them to the place grieved, and it will remove them.

To catch Fleas or Bugs in a Trap.

For the first, set in your Bed a Pan of Turpentine, and something arching over it to bear up the Cloaths that the Fleas may come easily to it, and drawn by this Scent, they will leap into it, and there stick fast: You may likewise place another under the Bed if you are troubled with many. For Bugs, get little Kexes, tye them together in rows, run warm Turpentine through them, so that it may stick on the sides, and yet a Passage may go clear through them, and then being placed advantageously, the Scent will draw the Bugs to creep into them, and there they will stick fast, so that you may easily catch them. Anointing your Bedsteads with Oil of Turpentine, will infallibly destroy, or drive them away.

To

To preserve your Trees, Orchards and Gardens, from Earwigs, Caterpillars, Blasts and the destroying Flies.

Take in the Spring of the Year, when the Trees begin to blast, wet Hay, lay it upon dry Straw, set on fire so that the Wind may drive the Smoke among the Trees; then having Pitch and Brimstone beaten into Powder, scatter it on little Fires, and the Vermin choaked with the Smell, will fall dead from the Trees in showers: This likewise much helps Fruit-trees in nipping frosty Mornings.

To make Letters or Figures on a Knife, Tobacco-box, &c.

Take Bees-wax, Turpentine each half an ounce, Rosin a dram, Oil of Turpentine a quarter of an ounce, mix these over a gentle fire, and spread them very even to the thinness of a shilling on your Knife or Box, &c. making it up high on the sides, as it were a Thorow or Dripping-pan, then what you design to write or figure, drawing on the ground with a Needle's point, touching the Metal at every stroak, then pour on Aqua-fortis and let it stand twelve hours, and the perfect Impression of what you drew, will be on the Knife or Plate.

The Names of all the Shires, Shire-towns, and number of Parishes in every County in England and Wales.

Counties.	Parishes.	Shire-towns.
1 Bedfordshire,	116	Bedford.
2 Berkshire.	140	Reading.
3 Buckinghamshire,	158	Buckingham.
4 Cambridshire,	163	Cambridge.
5 Cheshire,	198	Chester.
6 Cumberland,	58	Carlisle.
7 Cornwall,	61	Lancaster.
8 Darbyshire,	106	Darby.

9	Devonshire,	394	Exeter.
10	Dorsetshire,	148	Dorchester.
11	Durham,	118	Durham.
12	Essex,	415	Colchester.
14	Glocestershire,	280	Glocester.
15	Hartfordshire,	120	Hartford.
16	Hampshire,	253	Southampton.
17	Herefordshire,	176	Hereford.
18	Huntingtonshire,	78	Huntington.
19	Kent,	698	Canterbury.
19	Lancashire,	36	Lancaster.
20	Leicestershire,	200	Leicester.
21	Lincolnshire,	630	Lincoln.
22	Middlesex,	73	London.
23	Norfolk,	660	Norwich.
24	Northamptonshire,	320	Northampton.
25	Northumberland,	168	Newcastle.
26	Nottinghamshire,	168	Nottingham.
27	Oxfordshire,	280	Oxford.
28	Rutland,	47	Okeham.
29	Shropshire,	170	Shrewsbury.
30	Somersetshire,	385	Bristol.
31	Staffordshire,	130	Litchfield.
32	Suffolk,	175	Ipswich.
33	Surry,	140	Kingston.
34	Sussex,	312	Chichester.
35	Warwickshire,	158	Warwick.
36	Westmorland,	26	Kendale.
37	Wiltshire,	304	Salisbury.
38	Worcestershire,	152	Worcester.
39	Yorkshire,	419	York.

W A L E S.

1	Anglesey,	74	Beaumarice.
2	Brecknockshire,	61	Brecknock.
3	Cardiganhire,	64	Cardigan.

Cardigan

4	Carmarthenshire,	87	Carmarthen.
5	Carnarvonshire,	68	Carnarvon.
6	Denbighshire,	57	Denbigh.
7	Flintshire,	28	Flint.
8	Glamorganshire,	118	Landaff.
9	Merionethshire,	37	Harlech.
10	Monmouthshire,	127	Monmouth.
11	Montgomeryshire,	47	Montgomery.
12	Pembrokeshire,	145	Pembroke.
13	Radnorshire,	52	Radnor.

The Names of the Counties, Cities, and Cinque-Ports, sending Knights, Citizens, Burgessees and Barons to the Parliament of England.

Bedfordshire,	4	Rutland,	8
Bucks,	9	Salop.	11
Buckinghamshire,	14	Somersetshire,	18
Cambridgeshire,	6	Southampton,	26
Cheshire,	4	Staffordshire,	10
Corwall,	44	Suffolk,	16
Cumberland,	6	Surrey,	14
Derbyshire,	4	Sussex,	20
Devonshire,	26	Warwickshire,	16
Dorsetshire,	20	Westmorland,	4
Durham,	4	Wiltshire,	34
Essex,	8	Worcestershire,	9
Gloucestershire,	8	Yorkshire,	30
Hirefordshire,	8	Barons of the Cinque-	
Hertfordshire,	6	Ports,	16
Huntingdonshire,	4	W A L E S.	
Kent,	18	Anglesey,	2
Lancashire,	14	Brecon,	2
Leicestershire,	4	Cardigan,	2
			Lin.

<i>Lincolnshire,</i>	12	<i>Carmarthen,</i>	2
<i>Middlesex,</i>	4	<i>Carnarvon,</i>	2
L O N D O N,	4	<i>Derby,</i>	2
<i>Monmouthshire,</i>	3	<i>Flint,</i>	2
<i>Norfolk,</i>	12	<i>Glamorgan,</i>	2
<i>Northamptonshire,</i>	9	<i>Merioneth,</i>	1
<i>Northumberland,</i>	8	<i>Pembroke,</i>	3
<i>Nottinghamshire,</i>	9	<i>Montgomery,</i>	2
<i>Oxfordshire,</i>	2	<i>R. dnor,</i>	2
<i>England is in Length,</i>	389	<i>Isle of Man in Length,</i>	28
<i>In Breadth,</i>	279	<i>In Breadth,</i>	91
<i>In Compass,</i>	1532	<i>In Compass,</i>	81
<i>Miles.</i>		<i>Miles.</i>	
<i>Ireland is in Length,</i>	303	<i>Isle Anglesey in Length,</i>	25
<i>In Breadth,</i>	279	<i>In Breadth,</i>	28
<i>In Compass,</i>	948	<i>In Compass,</i>	82

T H E

Sick-Man's Rare Jewel:

THe *Scuroy* is known by pricking and shooting Pains in the Limbs and Head Knots and Knobs, sudden flushing, blubbering, and trembling of the Veins and Reins. To Remove this, take Syrup of Elderberries, Hony, Popey-water, Sage-water and Venice-treacle, a like quantity mix'd to ether Morning and Evening.

The *Dropsie* is known by the puffing up of the Flesh, the fulness of the Breath, the stirring of the Tongue and grievous Thirst. To remedy it, Take Bettony, Hyssop, St. John's Wort, and Polipodium of the Oak, boil them in Stal-beer and White-wine, and let the Party drink it hot Morning and Evening.

The

The *Jaundice* is known by the yellowness of the skin, by the overflowing of the Gall, the dulness and discolouring of the Eyes, dizziness of the Head and loathing of Meat. To remedy it, take Rhenbard, Cream of Tarter, Termerick, each a dram, Saffron four grains, beat these into Powder, and take a dram at a time in Posset-drink.

The *Gout* soon discovers it self by Cold or Heat, by extream Pains, afflicting the Nerves and Sinews. To remove this Pain; take Oil of Turpentine four ounces, Oil of Spike an ounce, Oil of Camomill two ounces, Ointment of Mallows and Groundsel, each an ounce, mix them well together, and anoint the place grieved as hot as may be endured.

The *Collick* is caused by a twisting Excoriation, or Wind in the Veins of the Bowels, and Bowels themselves. To remove this tormenting Pain, Take May-weed and Camomill, each a handful, Figs three ounces, Anniseeds and Liquorish, each an ounce, boil these well in Milk, and give the Party very hot.

The *Green-sickness*, most incident to Maids, and young widows, and sometimes to young Wives that have fumbling Husbands, is caused by the overflowing of the Seed. To remedy this, Take Sena, Sage, Rosemary, Bettony and Minr, boil them in Syder or Rhenish-wine, and let the Party drink it Morning and Evening.

The *Worms* are incident to most Humane Bodies, one time or other; their Signs are Paleness and sudden Flushings, rawness of Stomack, nauseating our Victuals: To cast out these inbred Insects, Take Fenegreek-seed an ounce, Worm-seed half an ounce, Aloes a dram, gea then into fine Powder, and let the Party grieved swallow two drams at a time in Honey, Treacle, or otherwise, and fast an Hour after.

The

The Stone or Gravel is known by no common Pain. To ease it, Take old Onions and white Lilly-roots: Braine out the Juice, and drink it an ounce at a time, with the like quantity of Beer, or White-wine.

A Powder for the Head-ach and Tooth-ach.

Take the Roots of Agrimony, Birthwort, and Betony, dry them into a Powder, with Powder of Hyssop-seed and Fennel-seed; snuff, it for the Head-ach, half a dram up your Nose at two or three times; if for the Tooth-ach, stop it into the Tooth, or lay it to the side in a Rag, and the pains will immediately Cease.

An approved Receipt to destroy Rats and Mice.

Take unslaked Lime and beat it into fine Powder, and mix it with fine Oat-meal, or in Wheat-flower, they will eat it greedily, and as soon as they have eaten, they will be so dry and droughthy, that they will drink Milk or Water, and by drinking, they sell the Lime on fire in their Bodies, which is present Death. And your Children and Servants need not be afraid; though several hath come to harm by Rat-catchers, who call it in *London Ratsbane*.

A Receipt to Cure a Scold.

Take two grains and a half of a Horse-courser's honesty, three drams of a Whore's Modesty, a scruple and half a quarter of a Catch-pole's pitty, three ounces and a quarter of a Usurer's Charity; boil all these together the space of three hours, in a gallon and half of a Widow's Tears, who truly cry'd for the death of her Husband; then strain it thorough a thick plank, and when it is cold, add thereto some Cantharides and Pellitory of Spain: Then make it into little Balls, and every morning before she wake

sto

Pain, top one down her throat, and in a little space it
 oots will cure her.
 time,

To Cure the Tooth-ach.

Take Pellitory of *Spain*, Staves-aere, of each a
 like quantity, half so much long Pepper, beat them
 and into powder, and temper therewith two or three
 r of corns of Bay-salt bruised, then dip your Finger there-
 ead in, and therewith rubb your Gums and Tooth, hold-
 nes, ing your Mouth open, that the Rheum may run out,
 r lay and it will give you sudden ease: But if the Tooth
 ed: be hollow, and that you would have it quite out, take
 Wheat-flower, mix it with the Milk of a Herb called
 Spurge, make it into the nature of a PASTE, with which
 fill the hole of the aching Tooth, which in a certain
 der time will cause the Tooth to drop out of it self:
 ver Likewise with washing your Mouth once in three
 eat weeks, or a Month with wine, wherein the Root of
 they the said Herb hath been well steeped, you shall never
 y feel after be pained in the Teeth.

To drive away Rats and Mice by a Perfume.

Go to an Apothecaries-shop, and buy one penny-
 worth of *Assfetida*, but in the Country they call it
 the *Devil's Dung*, and in any part where you are
 troubled with Vermin, take a Chafing-dish of Willow-
 wood live Coals, and make it burn very well, then take
 the *Devil's Dung* and put it into the Fire, and it will
 cause a smoak, which smoak will cause a Perfume, and
 that Petfume will drive all the Rats and Mice a-
 way.

Away to destroy Flies in Houses.

At Night when the Flies are settled shut the Rooms
 close, and upon a little Charcoal burn Brimstone and
 Burgundy-pitch, and they shall be stifled.

And

(16)
And yet some are of Opinion, that, of all others
Scold his the best Wife, according to the old Song,

*He that has a Scold, a Scold,
he has most cause to be merry,
For when she's in her furs, he may cherrish his Wits
by singing hey down derry.*

*He that marrys a merry Lass,
he has most cause to be sad,
For let her go free in her merry trisks, she
will work his Patience mad.*

*But he that copes with a sullen Wench,
that scarce will speak at all,
Her Doggedness more than a Scold or a Whore,
will perpestrate his Gall.
But he that marrys a Scold, &c.*

But yet notwithstanding this Song, let me advise
all those who have got Scolding Wives, to hasten to
the Ship before it sets forth, and there to ship them
both Bag and Baggage; and when they are once gone,
then every Hen-peck'd Fellow may sing,

*If thy Wife and my Wife were in a Boat together,
And all the bad Wives in the Town they were in another,
And both these Boats were bottomless, and floating on
[the Main]
Let them all go to Jericho, they shall ne'r be call'd again.*

